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2015

Subject: ZBANATSKY, Yuriy

Source : E

Date : 8 Feb 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. The meeting was arranged through Dr Kl. Source phoned her and asked to mediate in fixing an appointment which she did through CHERNIAVSKYI Viktor of the Ukrainian Mission in New York. CHERNIAVSKYI gladly agreed to help and an appointment was fixed for Feb 5, 1965 at 18.15 hrs in the room of Subject at Hotel Waldorf Astoria, # 1166.

Source arrived at 18.15 in room # 1166 and met there beside Subject also CHERNIAVSKY Viktor. The latter made some comments to the effect that Source and his friends are being now severely attacked by "Svoboda" and others for their contacts with Soviet Ukrainians. Source replied that there were also some who defended them and fought back.

V, friend of Source was supposed to join them at the hotel but after he failed to come, CHERNIAVSKY volunteered to drive Source and Subject to Source's house. Cherniavsky himself refused to enter Source's house explaining that he did not want anyone to say that "Zbanatsky could not go or talk anywhere without an escort from the Mission". Therefore he returned back with his driver to the Mission. They had a Cadillac, DPL 38. On the way to Source's house CHERNIAVSKY promised to inform people from the Round Table Club about arrivals of Ukrainian intellectuals to this country.

2. At Source's house Subject was introduced to Source's wife and sons. They had a small supper, Subject was drinking very little. Source's wife participated partly in their conversation and mostly severely attacked him. Source himself took a more "moderate line". Subject stayed until 22.15 and then by Mission's car back to hotel. ^{Went} About himself Subject told that he lived in Kiev, Kotsiubynskoho 2. He was married and had 2 sons. One of them is studying aviation, first year, his name is Leonid. The second son is student of 10th grade of Desiatylyitka. Otherwise repeated his generally known autobiography.

3. Topics discussed.

a/ Cultural exchange and emigration. Subject warmly recommended to organize trips to Ukraine. It was very important to learn about each other. One should choose "proper people" not just anybody as visitors. Subject mentioned SHEVELOV as the one who should visit Ukraine, in a group. When they (emigres) come to Ukraine they don't have to rely ^{necessarily} on Kolossova. Subject, Pidsukha and other friends from the SPU (Union of Ukrainian Writers) will take care of them. They will show them all aspects of Soviet

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life - good and bad. There are still many shortcomings in Ukraine, living standard is much lower than in the States but "we are improving and making progress too".

Visitors to Soviet Ukraine have nothing to fear. "We don't care and pay no attention to what someone has written against us in the past". "The main thing is what these people think today and with what intentions they come to our country". "We are not going to arrest anybody, we arrest only those who peek for rocket bases and similar stuff, and I am sure no one from your people will be coming for such peeking".

Source mentioned that cultural contacts will depend on positive changes in Ukraine, i.e. emigration is not going to develop them ^(contacts) until they - in Kiev - will do something positive for Ukrainian people on their part.

Subject's reply: they - in Kiev - do care about interests of Ukrainian people no less than the emigration. Of course, they are going to make new improvements in all fields of national life but emigres should understand that all the changes will be done not for their sake but out of Kiev's own motives. "We shall never change ~~your~~ basic political position for the sake of emigration. Forget about it".

b/ Russification. There is no official Russification in Ukraine. But some people are getting russified. To a great extent Ukrainians themselves are responsible for that. Khrushchev has done much good for Ukrainians but only in the beginning of his rule. In recent years he was the one who opposed any widening of competences of Ukr SSR. Now things are changing. Subject was sure that Ukrainians will get more and more concessions.

c/ Diplomatic relations of Ukr SSR. They are not needed because they would only cost money. Faced with Source's argumentation, Subject agreed that they would be useful and might be arranged "when the time will be ripe".

d/ Amalgamation of nations. No one is taking it seriously. This is a vision for the far future but not for today. Source asked why there was no repudiation of "amalgamation" forthcoming, why, for instance, people like SKABA in Kiev do not write something about it. On this occasion Subject indicated that SKABA was by no means a Kiev-Ilichov; Skaba's position was quite secondary.

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e/ Subject's attacks against Nekrassov. This was only a friendly critique. "Some people" in the West deliberately magnified and distorted what he said about Nekrasov. Anyway, they are friends with Nekrassov and remain so after Subject's "brotherly critique".

f/ USA - USSR Relations. Several times Subject stressed very emphatically that they hoped to establish and deepen friendly relations with this country and that this was the best guarantee of the world peace.

4. While in Bloomington, Indiana Subject came across a Ukrainian librarian and exchanged a few words with him. In Chicago, Ill. someone asked him whether all works of Rylskyi and Sesiura will be published in the Soviet Union implying that they will be censored and edited.

At the house of a millionaire in Chicago, Ill. Subject met a German ^{speaking} lady, aged 41, who often visited Germany and told him that West Germans remained revanchists and chauvinists. Subject fully shared her opinion and in his view West German rearmament was the main threat to the peace.

5. Subject is of average intelligence, quite sociable, likes to talk generalities, in this case probably to prevent others from talking; rather simply, somewhat rough, a typical peasant-stock representative of the Soviet new class, very proud of his deeds as a former partizan and his being a Hero of the Soviet Union, satisfied with his lot, "uncomplicated" if not unsophisticated.

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